AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) An integrated plasmid comprising a biotin synthase gene, an assistant DNA sequence for the integration of said plasmid into a host genome, a promoter sequence, and a selection marker.

2. (Withdrawn) The integrated plasmid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the biotin synthase gene is derived from *Saccharomyces cerevisae* or *Candida utilis*.

3. (Withdrawn) The integrated plasmid as claimed in claim 2, wherein the biotin synthase gene of *Candida utilis* comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

4. (Withdrawn) The integrated plasmid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the assistant DNA sequence is a *Candida utilis* fragment selected from the group consisting of NsiI-BamHI I8s rDNA, URA3 DNA, and HIS3 DNA.

5. (Withdrawn) The integrated plasmid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selection marker is a cycloheximide-resistant gene.

6. (Withdrawn) The integrated plasmid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the promoter sequence is selected from the group consisting of pL41 promoter of Candida utilis and pADHl promoter of *Saccharomyces cerevisae*.

7. (Withdrawn) The integrated plasmid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the integrated plasmid is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) pMCC21 (having the configuration of restriction sites in FIG. 6);

(b) pMCC31S (having the configuration of restriction sites in FIG. 8);

(c) pMCC32H (having the configuration of restriction sites in FIG. 9);

(d) pMCC33U (having the configuration of restriction sites in FIG, 10);

(e) pMCC35U (having the configuration of restriction sites in FIG. 11);

(f) pMCC36H (having the configuration of restriction sites in FIG. 12); and

(g) pMCC38S (having the configuration of restriction sites in FIG. 13).

8. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a yeast with improved ~~high~~ biotin productivity, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing ~~constructing~~ an integrating~~ed~~ plasmid comprising:

(i) a promoter sequence that is functional in yeast, and which is operably linked to a polynucleotide sequence encoding *Candida utilis* biotin synthase ~~gene';~~

(ii) an assistant DNA sequence to promote ~~for the~~ integration ~~of said plasmid~~ into a host genome~~, a promoter sequence,~~; and

(iii) a polynucleotide sequence encoding a yeast selectable~~ion~~ marker;

(b) linearizing said ~~Integrated~~ intergrating plasmid; and

(c) transforming said linearized ~~integrated~~ intergrating plasmid into the ~~a-~~ yeast~~;~~ ~~and~~ under conditions that permit ~~recombining~~ recombination between the *Candida utilis* biotin synthase gene ~~with~~ and the yeast genome.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding *Candida utilis* biotin synthase ~~gene of *Candida utilis*~~ comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

11. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the assistant DNA sequence is a *Candida utilis* fragment selected from the group consisting of Nsil-BamHI I8s rDNA, URA3 DNA, and HIS3 DNA.

12. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the selection marker is a cycloheximide-~~resistant~~ resistance gene.

13. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the promoter sequence is selected from the group consisting of ~~p~~L41 promoter of *Candida utilis* and ~~p~~ADHl promoter of *Saccharomyces cerevisae*.

14. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the prepared yeast with improved ~~high~~ biotin-productivity is useful in ~~as~~ feed additives, food additives, or cosmetics.

15. (Withdrawn) A method for producing biotin, comprising:
providing the yeast with high biotin-productivity of claim 8; and
culturing said yeast in a nutrient medium, and
recovering biotin from the culture broth.

16. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the recovered biotin is useful as feed additives, food additives, or cosmetics.